

DESOTO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
BOARD MEETING MINUTES

JOHN M. M. CALDWELL, PRESIDENT, PRESIDING

Monday, January 8, 1997

A. CALL TO ORDER

The January 8, 1997, meeting of the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors was called to order by John M. M. Caldwell, Sr., Board President.

Deputy Roger Jones, of the DeSoto County Sheriff's office was present and did open the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors meeting in a regular session to hear any and all business to come before the Board. The following were present:

Jessie Medlin-----District 1
Eugene C. Thach-----District 2
James D. Pearson-----District 3 (Absent)
John Caldwell-----District 4
Tommy Lewis-----District 5
W. E. "Sluggo" Davis-----Chancery Clerk
James Albert Riley-----Sheriff
Clovis Reed-----County Administrator
William H. Austin, Jr.-----Board Attorney

B. INVOCATION

The invocation was presented by Supervisor Tommy Lewis.

**C. MAJ. MIKE WOMACK AND BDE. CMDR. ED ROBERTS,
RE: NATIONAL GUARD**

Col. Ed Roberts, Attorney from Oxford, Mississippi, and Bge. Cmdr. of the National Guard addressed the Board of Supervisors on behalf of the National Guard's upcoming plans in DeSoto County. Along with Col. Roberts were Major Mike Womack, who is in charge of National Guard recruiting in the North half of Mississippi; Major Van Jones, Administrative Officer; and Lt. Col. Eldon Berry, who is in charge of recruiting for the State of Mississippi. Col. Roberts explained that National Guard personnel has decreased since 1994, overall. At present, 87 positions are authorized in the Desoto County unit of the National Guard. Of these, 55 are filled and there are 32 vacancies. Col. Roberts explained that recruitment has been a problem in DeSoto County. Col. Roberts has plans to authorize additional National Guard personnel for DeSoto County by moving an Air Defense Specialty Division to DeSoto County if positions can be filled. Future plans include moving an Air Defense Battery to DeSoto County in 1999, and long range plans are to build a National Guard Armory in Desoto County. The National Guard has recently been encouraged by their success operating in the schools, as this has traditionally been a somewhat difficult area for recruitment. However, they need help recruiting throughout the County. The National Guard representatives asked the Board of Supervisors to publically support the National Guard. They explained that there are educational opportunities available through the National Guard. Col. Roberts

Item C., Continued,

feels that DeSoto County is an untapped resource for recruitment. Supervisor John Caldwell asked about problems with the school system. Col. Roberts said this has been a problem in other school systems in the State as well. Supervisor John Caldwell asked if they have talked to the Superintendent of Education. Col. Roberts said they have not. Maj. Mike Womack said the National Guard is working on their recruitment tactics, and they feel they are making headway. Board Attorney William Austin suggested the National Guard Representatives visit with the DeSoto Economical Council and the Literacy Council. Supervisor John Caldwell thanked Col. Roberts and company for their work in planning for DeSoto County. Maj. Womack asked for a statement of support to help clear up public opinion that the National Guard is leaving DeSoto County.

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to send a resolution of support to the National Guard. The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

The **motion passed. See Exhibit C.**

D. Planning Commission

The Planning Commission brought several items before the Board of Supervisors as evidenced by the portion of the minutes submitted by the Planning Commission. **See Exhibit D.**

E. BID OPENING - STATE AID PROJECT SAP-17(52) - CHURCH ROAD

County Engineer Daniel Murphy opened the bids for the State Aid Project SAP-17(52), and State Aid Engineer Dan Tolar verified the bids had been fully and correctly prepared for acceptance. The bids were as follows:

<u>COMPANY</u>	<u>BID</u>	<u>EXECUTED PROPERLY</u>
Gray Corporation	\$ 1,144,131.52	Yes
Talbot Brothers	1,076,288.24	Yes
Colon Construction Co.	1,121,271.40	Yes
G. B. "Boots" Smith Corp.	977,027.18	Yes
Union Construction Co.	1,172,043.50	Yes
Chancellor & Son	1,030,877.79	Yes
Kelly & Kelly Construction	1,137,134.60	Yes
Gerrell Paving	1,138,667.93	Yes

Item E., Continued,

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to take the bids under advisement. **See Exhibit E.** The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

The **motion passed.**

The State Aid Engineer and the County Engineer excused themselves from the meeting so they could verify the bids were within specifications. Later in the meeting, they returned and recommended awarding the contract to the low bidder, G. B. "Boots" Smith Corporation. Supervisor Tommy Lewis asked how long they have to complete the project. County Engineer Daniel Murphy said the project should be completed in 180 working days.

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Tommy Lewis seconded the motion to approve establishing the project and awarding the contract to the low bidder, G. B. "Boots" Smith Corporation and to approve advance credits for the project. The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

The **motion passed. See Exhibit E.**

F. CONSTABLES

Constable Tommy Carr appeared before the Board to ask them to reconsider their previous motion concerning the pay of constables. According to Constable Carr, the Board previously voted to pay \$700.00 rather than the usual \$1,000.00 to the constables, providing the constable has lost cost. This year Constable Carr was paid \$700.00 and asked the Board to reconsider and pay the remainder of the \$1,000.00 allowed by State statute, and paid by other counties to their constables. Some discussion was presented on that point.

Supervisor Eugene Thach says the reason for the deduction was that constables in DeSoto County also work in Justice Court. Supervisor John Caldwell asked what Constable Carr's pay was. Constable Carr said \$3,000 for bailiff pay and \$700.00 for lost cost fee.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin said previously, certain types of warrants were hard to serve and the court often couldn't get them served and that was why the lost fee pay was established. Supervisor Eugene Thach asked if constables get paid when the summons cannot be served. Constable Carr said they do get paid, regardless, for civil cases, but not for county cases. Supervisor John Caldwell said that approval of this request would require a budget amendment and he was hesitant to approve such an amendment, but suggested the Board consider the request when the budget is approved for the next year.

Item F., Continued,

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded

the motion to amend the previous order to pay the balance of the \$1,000.00 to the constables, and to amend the budget accordingly. The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
Supervisor John Caldwell-----No
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

The motion passed. See Exhibit F.

G. OLD BUSINESS

1. Appointments

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to approve appointment to the DeSoto County Library Board as follows:

<u>District</u>	<u>Term</u>	<u>Appointee</u>	<u>Term Expires</u>
District 5	5 years	Lucie Bridgforth	January 3, 2002

The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

The motion passed. See Exhibit G.

2. Bids Under Advisement

a. Justice Court Renovation

Marvin Johnson, the Project Architect for the Justice Court Renovation, and Ed Spencer, Director of Operations and Maintenance presented a breakdown of the bids on the Justice Court renovation project. Mr. Johnson explained the project bids and options to handle the work on the Justice Court building renovations. Supervisor John Caldwell asked how the project would look.

Mr. Johnson explained the plans for the building. Ed Spencer, Director of Operations and Maintenance said the Sheriff is in the process of attempting to acquire some of the skilled inmate workers that were sent to Parchman. Supervisor John Caldwell asked when Justice Court can move into the building. Mr. Johnson answered the building is scheduled to be complete after 80 working days of construction and probably two weeks to acquire bonds. Mr. Spencer will report back to the Board on January 21, 1997, to make recommendations for these bids. See Exhibit G.2.a.

b. Building Supplies - Justice Court

Ed Spencer, Director of Operations and Maintenance, updated the Board of Supervisors on the bids for building supplies for the Justice Court renovation. Mr. Spencer will report back to the Board on January 21, 1997, with further updates on this item. See Exhibit G.2.b.

Item G., Continued,

3. BFI REQUEST FOR PRICE INCREASE

The County Administrator, Clovis Reed, notified the Board of Supervisors that a

meeting has been scheduled with BFI on January 16, 1997. Mr. Reed will notify the Board members when a time has been set for the meeting. **See Exhibit G.3.**

H. NEW BUSINESS

1. Cleaning of Property - Eldon Morse

This item was held for discussion during the Executive Session portion of the meeting.

2. Approval of Increases and Decreases in Certain Properties

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to accept assessments for increases and decreases in property as requested by the Tax Assessor on Exhibit H.2. The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

The **motion passed.** See **Exhibit H.2.**

3. Final Approval of Ad Valorem Tax Exemptions

County Administrator Clovis Reed, presented final approval from the State Tax Commission for ad valorem taxation exemptions for the following:

Danley Die Set, a Division of Connell Limited Processing
Metal Building Components, Inc.
Ground Support Specialist, LLC
Berman Industries, Inc.
R-11 Warehouse, LLC (Priority Transportation)
Southern Metal & Plastics Products

Supervisor John Caldwell pointed out that the order will acknowledge that the exemption is approved with the exception of state and school district taxes and road and bridge taxes.

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Tommy Lewis seconded the motion to approve the ad valorem tax exemptions as presented. The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

The **motion passed.** See **Exhibit H.3.**

4. Request From School Superintendent for Gravel for Olive Branch Middle School

Supervisor Jessie Medlin made the motion and Supervisor Tommy Lewis seconded the motion to approve the request from School Superintendent, Jerry Baird
Item H.4., Continued,

for spreading gravel on the back driveway of the Olive Branch Middle School's back driveway as requested in a letter dated January 7, 1997. The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

The motion passed. See Exhibit H.4.

I. EXECUTIVE SESSION

The executive session portions of these minutes are recorded under the portion of the minutes called "Executive Session".

J. OTHER ITEMS

1. Right of Way Work

The Board of Supervisors instructed the County Administrator to draft a letter to all the utility companies as a reminder to obtain permission before working on right of ways in DeSoto County.

2. County Administrator's Invitation to Speak on Behalf of DeSoto County

The County Administrator, Clovis Reed, has been asked to speak at *The Bond Buyer Third Annual Southeast Public Finance Conference* in Atlanta, Georgia, which is scheduled from February 19-21, 1997. Mr. Reed presented the letter he had received detailing the opportunity. Supervisor John Caldwell said this could be a good opportunity to promote interest from bidders in the approaching Civic Center bond. The County Administrator estimates the total cost of the trip to be between \$328.00 to \$400.00. After discussion, Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor John Caldwell seconded the motion to approve the trip to Atlanta, for the County Administrator as requested. The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

The motion passed. See Exhibit J.2.

3. Reservation Request

Clovis Reed, the County Administrator, presented to the Board that he has been asked by Jim Flanagan, of the DeSoto Economic Council, to make the Board aware that this is a good time to make reservations for the Blue Ribbon trip to Washington, to be held from March 5 to March 9, 1997.

Item J., Continued,

4. Quarterly Allocation Approval

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to approve the quarterly allocations of the Sheriff, Tax Collector, and Tax Assessor. The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

The **motion passed. See Exhibit J.4.**

5. Acceptance of Civic Center Resolution Vote

Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to accept the official results on the Civic Center Resolution vote to the State Tax Commission as recommended by the Board Attorney, William Austin. The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

The **motion passed.**

6. Stateline Road Right Of Way

Supervisor Jessie Medlin notified the Board that he has received unofficial word that the City of Olive Branch has agreed to enter into an interlocal agreement with the county for work on Stateline Road. In anticipation of the agreement, Supervisor Jessie Medlin requested authorization of the Board of Supervisors to obtain an appraisal of one piece of land that may not be available by donation. Supervisor Tommy Lewis made the motion and Supervisor Eugene Thach seconded the motion to authorize the appraisal of the land as requested. The vote was as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
Supervisor James Pearson-----Absent
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

The **motion passed.**

7. NACO Convention

County Administrator Clovis Reed reminded the Board of Supervisors that the NACO Convention is approaching and asked if any of the Supervisors were planning to attend.

Supervisor Eugene Thach made the motion and Supervisor Jessie Medlin seconded the motion to recess until Tuesday, January 21, 1997, at 9:00. The **motion**

Item J., Continued,

passed by a vote as follows:

Supervisor Jessie Medlin-----Yes
Supervisor Eugene Thach-----Yes
Supervisor James D. Pearson-----Absent
Supervisor John Caldwell-----Yes
Supervisor Tommy Lewis-----Yes

THIS the 8th day of January, 1997, these minutes have been read and approved by the DeSoto County Board of Supervisors.

JOHN M. M. CALDWELL, SR., President

